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ROYAL COMMERCIAL, Beaufort, S. C.

Selby and the News.

The News has very certainly shown that the editor of the Phoenix has a warm spot in his heart for Honest John. His telegram as agent of the associated press last winter, in regard to the trial before Kirk; his refusal to attack the Blue Ridge swindle, which resulted in the withdrawal of Col. Thomas from his paper; and his recent telegram, headed in all the northern papers as "Patterson vindicated," etc., all remain unexplained as coming from a professedly conservative editor, and an enemy to all radical carpet-baggers. On the other hand, what can Dawson say to Selby that cannot as truthfully be said of himself. Moses just as plainly controlled the News as it appears now that Patterson controls the Phoniz. Last year the News could not afford to give up its ten thousand dollars worth of patronage; its correpondents in Columbia liked to get six dollars a day as committee clerks from the speaker of the house; to be designated the "official paper" was worth many hundreds of dollars a year when the Courier was alive; and therefore Frank Moses, for months before and months after the election had a useful, able and industrious organ in the leading conservative paper of the State. Don't let the pot call the kettle black. From one end of the state to the other Joe Woodruff fed out the pap to the conservative editors, and while the grub listed they were dumb dogs indeed. Printing papers is expensive, conservative South Carolinians are slow in paying for subscriptions, advertising is dull, taxes are high, and if Selby is lenient to Honest John, he can say to the News -"You know how it is yourself."

A Warning.

Those who count upon the continued docihty of the people of South Carolina under misrule reckon without the host. There are signs of organization in one party and mutterings of revolt in the other. It is not possible that the conservatives will again allow an election to go by default. We see in the Granges the agency needed in the past to bring out the full vote of the democratic party in one supreme effort to secure an honest and economical government. And we see in the very recklessness of the repub lican leaders, in the talk of the people around us, heard in Columbia, in the weaker, that the fears of the past are being dissipated, and that a longing for purity and decency is growing among those whose votes have hitherto been depended upon to continue in power those who have been false to every trust, who have broken every promise, and whose course has proved a heavy load to republicanism elsewhere and a disgrace to it here.

The democrats of New York, generally of the lower grades of the people, showed their desire for honest government by overthrowing Tweed. The sixty thousand majority which his party had for years maintained emboldened Tweed and his co-thieves to believe that they need fear nothing. They insolently inquired when first confronted with the evidences mon school system would be varily imof their frauds: "What are you going to proved and strengthened were do about it?" They had a constituency which republicans were apt to think were hopelessly besotted with ignorance and department in the various counties of dishonesty. Yet when these masses, thought to be so obtuse, so degraded, so his whole term of office in the inaugurapartisan-when, we say, these masses were at last convinced of the rascality of hitherto untried experiment in South their leaders, they rose in anger and disgust to join a movement for reform. Thousands of the democratic party, far removed in education, in social rank and in apparent respectability from the mass

believe in the guilt of those they have trusted and been used to follow, when deceived, have always been found with patriotism enough to subordinate habits of obedience to party leaders, to prefer good government to party success.

So will it be in South Carolina. Not the most refined and wealthy of her sons is more anxious for an honest and capable government of the state than is the poorest freedman who plies the hoe in the fields of Colleton, Beaufort or Georgetown.

The Debt and Taxes.

The Senate passed on Saturday the house bill to reduce the volume of the public debt. The changes are that the senate altered the rate of discount upon bonds, so that the public creditor is ofthe proposed tax levy is made fifteen mills instead of sixteen. The levy is divided as follows:

1. One and a quarter mills for excou-

exur and regular session.

5. One mill for pathic winting of 6. Three and a quarter said for de 7. Three quariers of a mill for Bank nd Trust Company (H. Solomon.) 8. One mill for half yearly interest on public debt.

9. Three mills for county purposes. The fleating debt has not been touched and the conversion bonds are not provided for at all.

The statesmanship which concieves and passes such a measure is on a par with hat which created the debt and stole the money. Not one tenth of the publie creditors will accept the provisions of the act and the noney raised for interest will be spent on other objects. A state, no more than individual, can resolve tself out of debt. The whole scheme is too silly to discuss with patience.

The Governor's Message.

We are sorry to note the fact tha Governor Moses uses the occasion of his annual message mainly to produce a document which he thinks will be useful to him as a politician. He is not now actually a candidate. He is the governor of the state, and ought to feel that he represents the whole people and not a nere party.

We can heartily endorse at least two parts of his message, and these are all we have room for this week. These are his commendations and recommendations in regard to the reports of Mr. Jillson and Dr. Ensor.

EDUCATION.

I transmit the fifth annual report of he State superintendent of education. This elaborate and suggestive document -setting forth, in a most forcible aspect, he magnitude and importance of our free school system, and its rapid growth and improvement-is worthy of the devoted and capable officer from whom it emanates, and will amply repay your ttentive perusal and consideration, to which I commend it.

The following tables will exhibit the scholastic population and school attenlance for the year 1873:

SCHOLASTIC POPULATION. White. Colored. 116.91 73,442 71,685 113,186 Total \$1.975 145,127

230,103 The scholastic population of the State has increased by 32,923 since the year 1869. It includes all those inhabitants of the State who are between the ages of six and sixteen year .

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE. White. Colored. .19.345 23,528 22,707 .17.872 Total 37.218 46,535

83,752 This exhibit shows an increase of ,431 over the school attendance of the year 1872. There were in operation broughout the State, during the year 1872, 1,919 common schools, under the charge of 2,185 teachers During the present year there have been 2,017 schools, in charge of 2,310 teachers, showng an increase, during this year, of 98 chools and 125 teachers.

You will readily see, from the figures riven above, that almost two-thirds of the children of the State either obtain heir instruction in private schools, or ise are growing up in mental ignorance and dark ess. It is also fairly presumable that the majority of the children who attend private schools are of the white race, as the parents of those who are olored are, as a rule, too poor to pay for the education of their children. I respectfully but most earnestly call to the imperative necessity, which seems to exist, of some action being speedily taken streets, in the cars; and by the wayside, to enforce those provisions of the conthat the ties of party fealty are grown stitution which require the compulsory totally, but also to vary much in exattendance at school of all children be-

tween the ages of six and sixteen years. The superintendent of education reports that the progress and success of the school system has been greatly retarded by the unsatisfactory condition of the finances of the State, and recom-mends that proper legislative action be taken to secure such appropriation as will cover past indebtedness. It is due to the State treasurer that I should say that the entire proceeds of the two mil evy for school purposes have been sacredly applied to the appropriation for com-mon schools, as required by law-a_delailed statement of which will be found

in Mr. Jillson's report.
I recommend, as Mr. Jillson does, that the school funds be apportioned according to school attendance, as the constitution directs, and not according to scholastic population, as now apportioned by law. I am of the opinion that our comsuperintendent of education given by law a more general supervision and power over the affairs appertaining to his the State. The devotion to duty and years. tion and successful development of a Carolina, entitle him to the gratitude and esteem of all the people of the State

THE LUNATIC ASYLUM.

I respectfully submit for your attentive consideration the annual reports of of voters, hung back or actively worked the board of regents and of the superinto retain in power their old time leaders. The statement therein contained of the Thus is it everywhere. The people, many awkward an humiliating embarthe masses, though they may be hard to rassments to which the superintendent move, though they may long decline to has been subjected by the inability of the State treasurer to furnish him with the entire amount of money appropriated for the maintenance of the institution, will that confidence is finally broken, when it only awaken the sympathy of your honbecomes manifest that they have been orable bodies for the anfortunate patients under his care and protection, but will also impress upon you the importance and necessity of such legislative action as will furnish immediate relief, and prevent the possibility of the reur-ence of so painful a state of affairs. The levy of a specific tax for the maintenance of the charitable institutions of the state and the strict sequestration of the procoeds thereof to the objects of the levy. as directed by the constitution, would be an efficient remedy for the diseased finan ces of the institution, and would reflect eredit upon our humanity and civilization. I can nestly recommend that this course be adopted. The report of the superintendent shows that at the commencements of the last fiscal year the number of patients in institution was 290 number admitted during the year-98. making the whole population of the in-stitution during the year 388. Of this number 27 were discharged fully recovfered fifty per cent instead of forty, and ered, 4 were discharged improved, 14 spinning, shows that it is wanting in were discharged unimproved, and 34 street have died. There remained in the institution, on the 31st of October, 1873, 309, of whom 146 are males and 155 are females. The appropriation for the support of the institution for the fiscal year tive and indical departments.

2. One and a quarter nills for penal, charitable and educational institutions.

3. Two nills for public schools.

4. One and a half mills for expenses of the institution for the fiscal year just the institution for the fiscal year just

intendent has received from the treasur S20.817.84. The total expenses of the institution for the fiscal year consumering November 1, 1872, amounted to \$87,751

24. Liabilities reported due and unpaid

at close of last fiscal year \$32,015. 65. Liabilities due at close of last fiscal year inndvertently omitted in last report \$33-01 .39. Due State treasurer on account of overdraft \$8.182.16. Total liabilities \$191.873.41.

The recommendation of the superintendent that a special appropriation be made at once to pay this deficiency, and that an appropriation of \$75,000 be set apart for the support of the institution during the current fiscal year, meets with my earnest approval. More than three years ago an appr priation was made for the purpose of having built an addition to the male department of the asylum for the comfortable accommodation of the colored inmates, but owing to the inability of the State treasury to pay the appropriation, even this small addition remains uncompleted. The superintendent, however, determined to remove them at all hazards from their contracted and disagreeable quarters, and accordingv, vacated several ward in the male and female departments, and then transferred them, where I have found, by personal in pection. th y new enjoy accommodations equal to any in the building. The continuous efforts of the superintendent to improve the condition and surroundings of all his patients, even in the face of his financial troubles, are especially commendable and, afford at once a proof of his kindness of heart and energy of character-demonstrating, if, at this late day of his stewardship, such a thing were nece sary, that he is paculiarly right man in the right place." thousand feet of underground sewerage have been constructed for the purpose of carrying away from the institution the waste water and slops, thereby improving both the appearance of the premises and the health of the patients. New kitchens and dining rooms have been fitted up, hot air furnaces introduced, and a lecture room and a billiard hall have been constructed. In short, all that human in genuity could contrive, and his limited means allow, has been done to promote the comfort of those unfortunate beings who have been afflicted with the 'sickness of the soul."

SEA ISLAND COTTON.

Ought the Culture of the Staple to be Abandoned.

The Views of a Planter who is not Discouraged.

Editor of The News and Courier: A circular has been issued by the

Agricultural society of South Carolina inviting "a conference in convention of the sea island planters touching the vital interests of those engaged in agricultural pursuits."

Evidently, from the whole tone and tenor of the circular, the committee seem to take a very desponding view of the condition of this branch of our agricultural interest, so much so as to suggest that they meet and council together for such substitutes as are likely to give a remuneration for capital and labor"-meaning, I infer, the abaudonment of the culture of sea island cotton. If my inference is correct, I by no means share or sympathize with the movement. It is true the present prices are unremunerative. It is also true-that those engaged in its production have suffered from bad seasons and the depredations of the catterpillar, and, in general, have found it difficult to make both ends meet at the close of their year's labors. It is to be regretted that these things are so, but we should not be too much discouraged the attention of your honorable bodies because we have been checked. Findures occur in every pursuit of life. crops of every article of culture are liable not only to fail, sometimes almost tent, and there is no "substitute" that can be suggested but will be subjected to all the vicissitudes of raising cotton. Nor do I concur in the "manifestly increasing production of sea island cotton in other countries," as stated by the circular. Certainly not, if you may rely on a late circular issued by Stead Brothers, of Liverpool, who are said to

be of the high st authority.
It is well known that the Emperor of the French made most carnest efforts in making Algeria "a very garden" for the cultivation of cotton, and to create not only a source of national wealth, but a great rival to the United States, by offering large bounties and prizes amounting to twenty thousand francs, annually, to the largest and most successful cultivators of the sta-

RESULT-STEAD BROTHERS CIRCULAR. остовек 3, 1872.

" ALGERIA .- This cotton has for some time been out of favor with English spinners and very little has found its way to this country for the last two

Undoubtedly it has been the constant aim of the cotton spinners and manufactures of England for the last fifty years to relieve themselves from dependence on the United States for their main supply of "food for their looms," by making every effort in their power to substitute other cottons, with what result I will quote from the same (Stead Brothers) circular:

"TAHITI. - For some time this cotton proved to be a very important sub stitute, and was much liked by the spinners, but during the last two years the quality has so greatly deteriorated in regularity and strength of staple that it is now quite out of favor." And yet these quotations make this article, which is "quite out of favor," sell in the Liverpool market at 14 d. to 15d., gold, for the 'medium' grades. The Liverpool Brokers' Price

Current quotes them 17d. "Fiji.- This cotton in its general properties, more resembles sea islands than any other substitute, but the extreme length of staple, without proportionate strength, is a serious draw back. * * * * The great irregu larity of the earlier crops gave much disappointment, and caused considerprejudice against the cotton,

which has not been overcome," And yet their quotations shows 'clean good' cotton to sell at 18 to 22d This was considered a low scale of prices. In the Liverpool Broker's Price Current they are quoted 18 to 24d. PERUVIAA .- This cotton is much

in favor for weft spinning, owing to its color, cleanliness and silkmess of The fact that it is in favor for "west"

strength of staple. Sales 151 to 161d, EGYPTIAN. - By far the most important of the substitutes is 'Gallene' Egyptian, which has largely supplanted the common and medium sea is lands, especially amongst the Bolton spinners. The growth of this cotton has materially increased during the information we have

passed of \$51,788-65; of which the super-land of the reserved from the treasury amounted to fully 15.00; ball seef 600 pounds each, of such quality as to be a substitute for sea islands, quoted as a lling about 18d."

In the Liverpool Broker's Price Current, extreme quotations are 5 to 15id. It is a little singular that whill every description of cottons are que ted in the Liverpool Brokers' Price Current, no mention is made of this "Gallene") Egyptian, "which has so largely supplanted common and medi-um sea island," and with all deference to Messrs. Stead Brothers, as being the highest or most reliable authority, I doubt their cander when they state that it is "of such quality as to be a substitute for the real sea island." They are finer in quality and longer in staple than the common America : uplands, but have not the strength, nor so fine, nor so long, as the true sea Now, it is well known by both the spinner and producer that the requirite for quality is the combination of fineness and strength.

Thus it is shown that every one of the substitute are wanting in what constitutes the real or chief value of sea island cottons; but if this were not so, the same authority states the important fact that the sales from the 1st October, 1872, to 2d October 1873. were 'equal to a supply amounting to" 59,910 bags, and its production from all countries as follows: out of favor)...

. 4,000

54,289

Total production

Showing sales of 5,651 bags more than

production. With this important fact before us. and the additional one that there has been accomparatively no such decline or fluctuations in the yarns or goods into which these cottons are manufactured, the question naturally suggests i self, what is it that has operated to make so ruthous a decline in the staple itself ? and this too in the face of one of the smallest crops that has probably been made the last thirty years.

Is it not reasonable, therefore, to suppose that compulsory sales and combinations have had far more influence in causing the present decline than excess of production of substi-tutes? Since the war our factors are, as a general thing, so circums rised in their means as to be incapable of hold ing consignments, and consequently subjects this interest to foreign combinatious, which may act in concert and with a perfect knowledge of the need of both planter and factor, to meet their obligations, and by being forced to sell have to submit to enormous sacrifice, and thus this important interest of husbandry is brought into

I also doubt their correctness when they state that the "Gillene Egyption has largely supplanted common and medium sea islands" | with spioners. It is not forgotten that during the blockade almost fabulous prices were paid in Liverpool for our staple; neither can it be disputed that after the war prices were extravagintly high. It is only the last two years that the prices have been so terribly depressed and the planting of this staple unremunerative, and this not owing to any serious decline in a single article of fabric which the, compose. The spinners had then an the "substitutes" they now hav. My doubt is also confirmed by the following extract from a distinguished spin ner of Manchester. He says: "Fine and course sea is ands are nearly as distinct in their value and different in the purpose they serve, as silk and cotton. Coarse cotton, however aban dant and cheap, can near be a suisti tute for fine, and hence the value ofthe latter is in a great measure in dependent of the former. * * * * From the superior strength of yarn it produces, savings will be made in every stage of the manufacture."

From this presentation of facts I cannot but think that there are undue influences, beyond the fair and natural influence of supply and demand, which operate to depress the price of this staple, or how else is to be accounted the fact that the "subsitutes," such as Tahiti of medium grades and "quite out of favor," are selling in Liverpool a 29 to 31c., and Fiji, "without pro-portionate strength, and considerable prejudice against the cotton, which has not been overcome," are quoted as selling from 36 to 44c., gold. I would, therfore, respectfully suggest that the true question for the couven tion is not what "substitute" is most likely to suit our genial soil, but what arrangements could be formed by which the producers would be protected, when their interests are sent to market, from the effects of combined speculation? A PLANTER.

The Italian Colony at Almeada. Signor Grandi, the secretary of the Italian Consulate in New York; has just

returned to Charleston from Port Royal and gives a deplorable account of the condition in which he found the immigrants sent to Almenda by agreemen with the Port Royal Colonization Society Mr. Papin, the president of this so-called society, has an office at Port Royal, and that appears to be the whole of the soci-ety. This person agreed to give each immigrants a tract of land at a reasonable price and supply him with food and implement, but each immigrant was required to pay Papin fifteen dollars in advance. This was done by the twentythree Italian immigrants who went down and who settled at Almead. They made complaint that faith with them was not kept, and Signor Grandi went down to visit them. He found that they had no tools, no animals and no food except what they could obtain by hunting. Papin, on being remonstrated with, said that he cold not fa fill his contract because Mr. R. G. Holmes, the owner of Almeada. I all not fulfilled his bargain with him, but he said he was willing to return the fifteen dollars deposit made by the immigrants. This he failed to do. Signor Grandi sought another home for his compatriots, and secured a tract of land on the plantation of Messrs. Paul & Webb, at Brunson's. The Italians obtained the land at ten dollars an acre, are fed for one year, and are supplied with tools, animals and seed. It is a great pity that any societies having the control f immigrants should allow themselves to be beguiled by persons whose only stock in trade is promised and plausibility. There was no difficulty in ascertaining in Be-ufort that the vaunted colonization society did not exist. A little inquiry before hand in these matters will save a world of trouble and expense .- Charles-

The Sava mah papers say that Capt-Tenbrock, has gone to New Orleans to Tibel the steamship Texas for \$20,000 for services rendered by the steam tog in getting the steamer off the bar near; Alfred Williams,

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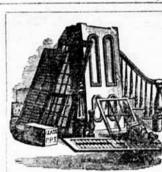
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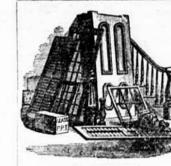
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